City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2026

Staff Resources: Ashley Haire, Transportation Director, Jessica Morriss, Transportation Assistant Director, and Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the annual Fiscal Year 2027 North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) grant funds to support transit operations, accept the funds, and sign all associated required documents.

Background:

- State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) is a non-competitive formula grant awarded annually to eligible municipalities operating a fixed-route transit system in a designated urbanized area. To qualify, recipients must meet specific NCDOT criteria:
    - Funds are restricted to operating and maintenance expenses
    - Funding disbursements cannot exceed total local operating contributions
    - Funds cannot be used to match other state funding programs
- The City of Asheville annually receives SMAP funds from the NCDOT to support necessary maintenance activities of the ART transit system.
- This includes preventative maintenance of the City's transit fleet, equipment, and facilities.
- Once granted, the SMAP Program will provide $1,104,732 in grant funds for FY 2027 to the City to support transit maintenance.
- This represents a 0.59% increase relative to the $1,098,253 allocation received by the City for Fiscal Year 2026.

Vendor Outreach:

- Not applicable. This is an annual grant received from NCDOT to support transit maintenance.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility
- Quality Affordable Housing
- A Well Planned and Livable Community

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Not applicable.

Committee(s):

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- Once granted, the SMAP Program is providing $1,104,732 in grant funds for FY 27 to the City to support transit maintenance. This figure represents a 0.59% increase in funding relative to the allocations received by the City over the past several years.
- Since this is a recurring grant application and disbursement, the anticipated funds and required match (100%) were already included in the FY 2027 Adopted Transit Operations Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the annual Fiscal Year 2027 North Carolina Department of Transportation State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) grant funds to support transit operations, accept the funds, and sign all associated documents related to the application or acceptance.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the city manager to apply for the annual Fiscal Year 2027 North Carolina Department Of Transportation State Maintenance Assistance Program grant funds to support transit operations, accept the funds, and sign all associated required documents.

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes section 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from the Federal and state governments and their agencies and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas, funds for FY 27 are available from the North Carolina Department of Transportation State Maintenance Assistance Program ; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would receive financial assistance in the amount of $1,104,732 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to support the cost of transit operations, which amount is already included in the FY 27 adopted Transit Operations Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville would comply with all applicable Federal and State requirements in accepting the grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville would provide a 100% local match in the amount of $1,104,732 which is budgeted in the FY 27 Transit Operations Fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville's Grants Policy requires the City Council to authorize application for any grant of $90,000 or greater;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that: the City Manager is authorized to apply for the annual Fiscal Year 2027 North Carolina Department of Transportation State Maintenance Assistance Program grant funds to support transit operations, accept the funds, and sign all associated documents related to the application or acceptance.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of September, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk